

House Resolution No.

Whereas, it is with tremendous pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause in their diverse legislative endeavors in order to convey a warm, Show-Me State welcome to visitors to our state; and

Whereas, the Right Reverend Vashti Murphy McKenzie of Nashville, Tennessee, has attained considerable distinction as the Presiding Prelate of the 13th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, on Mother's Day, May 14, 2007, Bishop Vashti Murphy will be the guest speaker at Saint James AME Church in Saint Louis, Missouri; and

Whereas, Bishop Vasti Murphy prepared for her spiritual and religious journey in life by earning Bachelor of Science, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry degrees; and

Whereas, no stranger to well-deserved honors and accolades, Bishop Vasti Murphy has received Honorary Doctorates from Howard University, Wilberforce University, Morgan State University, and Goucher College; and

Whereas, in addition to leading the 13th Episcopal District and her earlier service as Chief Pastor of the 18th Episcopal District in southeast Africa, Bishop Vasti Murphy is the 117th elected and consecrated Bishop of the AME Church, which makes her the first woman to become the Titular Head in the two hundred year history of the predominately black Methodist denominations; and

Whereas, the service of Bishop Vasti Murphy to the AME Church has been characterized by a successful integration of social and spiritual concerns, growth in infrastructure and services, and true concern for parishioners and the surrounding population; and

Whereas, Bishop Vasti Murphy is justifiably proud also to be known as the beloved wife of Stan McKenzie and the loving mother of three children:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to welcome Bishop Vashti McKenzie to the state of Missouri and to convey to her this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes for continued success as the head of the AME Church; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation to the Right Reverend Vashti Murphy McKenzie of Nashville, Tennessee.

Offered by _____
Representative Robin Wright Jones
District No. 63

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. ____, adopted ____, 2007.

Rod Jetton, Speaker